

Biography

Frank J. Falen



Franklin J. Falen along with his wife Karen Budd-Falen founded the firm, the Falen Law Offices L.L.C. in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1992. Frank's practice includes litigation on behalf of property owners regarding zoning and land use issues, public and federal lands issues, environmental laws, and negotiation of wind contracts, pipelines and transmission line right-of-ways, and oil and gas surface use agreements behalf of landowners. Frank pioneered the concept of landowner group negotiation on such major right-of-ways as Keystone XL, ONEOK, Hiland, Black Hills Power and others. Some of these landowner groups represent hundreds of miles along a right-of-way corridor. In 2019, Frank worked to start the Wyoming Land and Mineral Owners Association to provide a voice for land and mineral owners at the state level. Frank has taught Continuing Legal Education classes on zoning and land use planning and is a frequent presenter at pipeline and wind related seminars and meetings. Frank has litigated cases before the Wyoming Supreme Court, the Wyoming Federal District Court and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Frank is also licensed before the Courts in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Before establishing the law firm, Frank served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Washington Cattlemen's Association in Ellensburg, Washington. In that position, Frank developed position papers and statements supporting and protecting the State's live-stock industry and reviewed and provided comments on State and National legislative proposals affecting private property rights and wilderness proposals. Frank also assisted with the creation of a statewide advocacy effort opposing wild and scenic rivers designations. Additionally, Frank has worked for the Federal Lands Legal Foundation, completing a review of this historical and equitable arguments of grazing permits on federal lands.

Frank has served as a coach for the Future Farmers of America Agriculture Issues teams at East High School and has received an Honorary Chapter Degrees from the FFA in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2017. Frank is a member of the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Frank grew up in Northern Nevada where he and his family own and operate a large cattle ranch which includes both federal and private lands. Working with family members, they have substantially increased their operation, including the purchase of the ranch. He is personally involved with all areas of his family's business including planning, production, marketing and quality assurance. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from University of Nevada at Reno, and his law degree from the University of Wyoming. Frank and his wife Karen have two grown children, Isaac and Sarah and a grandson, Wesley.